

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE ROCKY PARK MIXED  
USE DEVELOPMENT**

**FOR EARTH CONSULTING cc**

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**TABLE OF CONTENT**

INTRODUCTION..... 3  
METHOD..... 3  
RESULTS..... 9  
MANAGEMENT PLAN..... 9  
CONCLUSION..... 9

**TABLE OF FIGURES**

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA..... 7  
FIG. 2: PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA..... 8  
FIG. 3: LOCATION OF SITES IN THE STUDY AREA..... 10

## INTRODUCTION

KwaDukuza Municipality's Housing Department wishes to construct the 'Rocky Park Mixed Use Development' on available unused land parcels of the Stanger Ext. No 22. Ward 19. The site is approximately 16 ha in extent. The development will entail mixed housing categories from non-income (poor HDI beneficiaries), lower-income to middle income with associated service infrastructure and social amenities." Umlando cc was contracted by Earth Consulting to undertake a heritage assessment for this proposed development

The development is situated in an already built-up area of Stanger (fig's 1- 2); however, the three areas of land appear to be largely undeveloped since the 1960s.

The impacts on the area will be:

- Excavations for each development

## METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal, and known memorials and other protected sites, battlefields and cemeteries in southern Africa. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary. We also consult with the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:50 000 topographical maps (1940s – 1960s) and occasionally the 1937 aerial photographs. These images are used to determine if the landscape was occupied in the past.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

### **Defining significance**

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

#### **1. State of preservation of:**

- 1.1. Organic remains:
  - 1.1.1. Faunal
  - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
  - 1.5.1. Ash Features

- 1.5.2. Graves
- 1.5.3. Middens
- 1.5.4. Cattle byres
- 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

**2. Spatial arrangements:**

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

**3. Features of the site:**

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

**4. Research:**

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

**5. Inter- and intra-site variability**

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?
- 5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

**6. Archaeological Experience:**

- 6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

**7. Educational:**

- 7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?
- 7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

**8. Other Heritage Significance:**

- 8.1. Palaeontological sites
- 8.2. Historical buildings
- 8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites
- 8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries
- 8.5. Living Heritage Sites
- 8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.



FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA

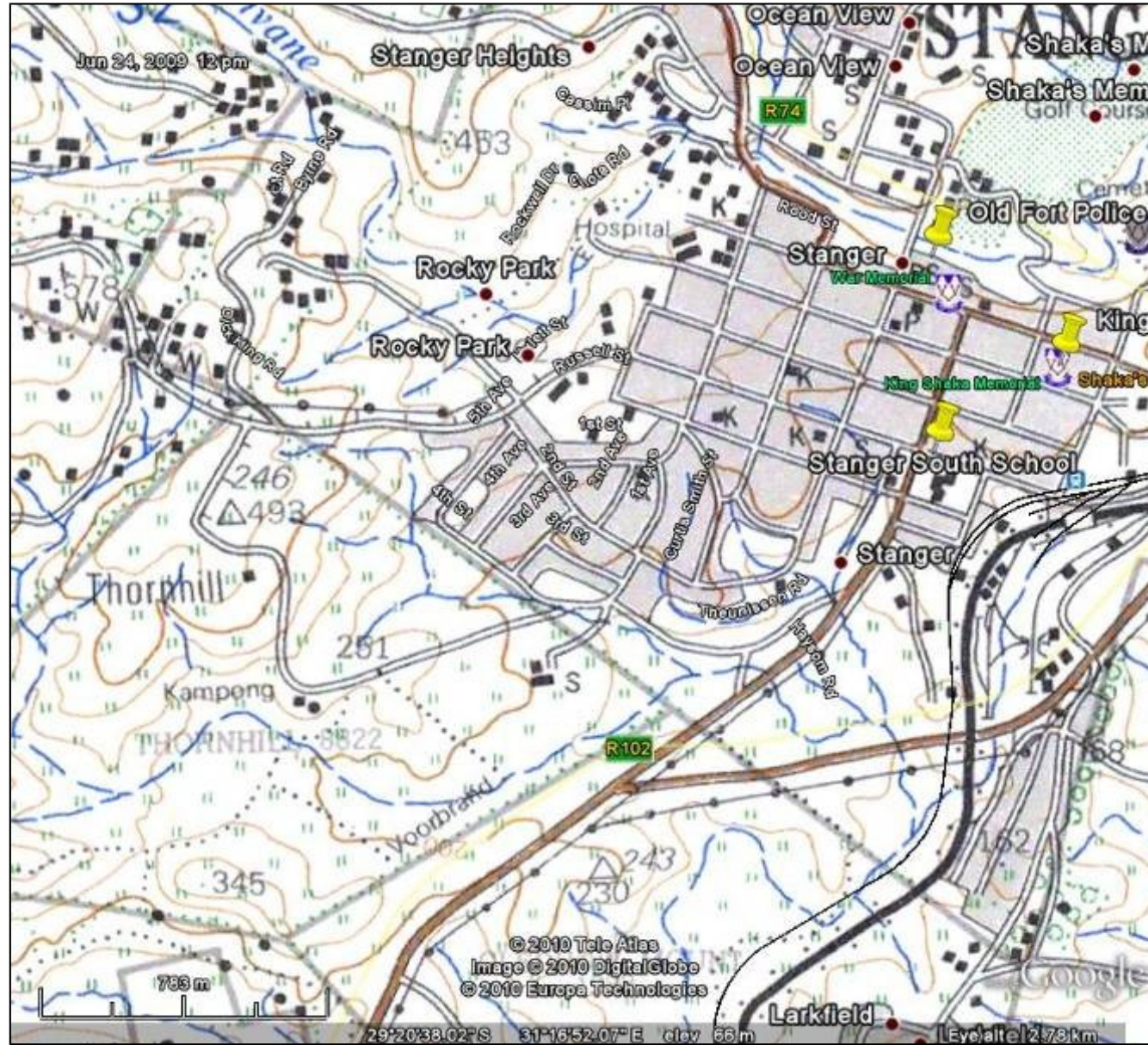
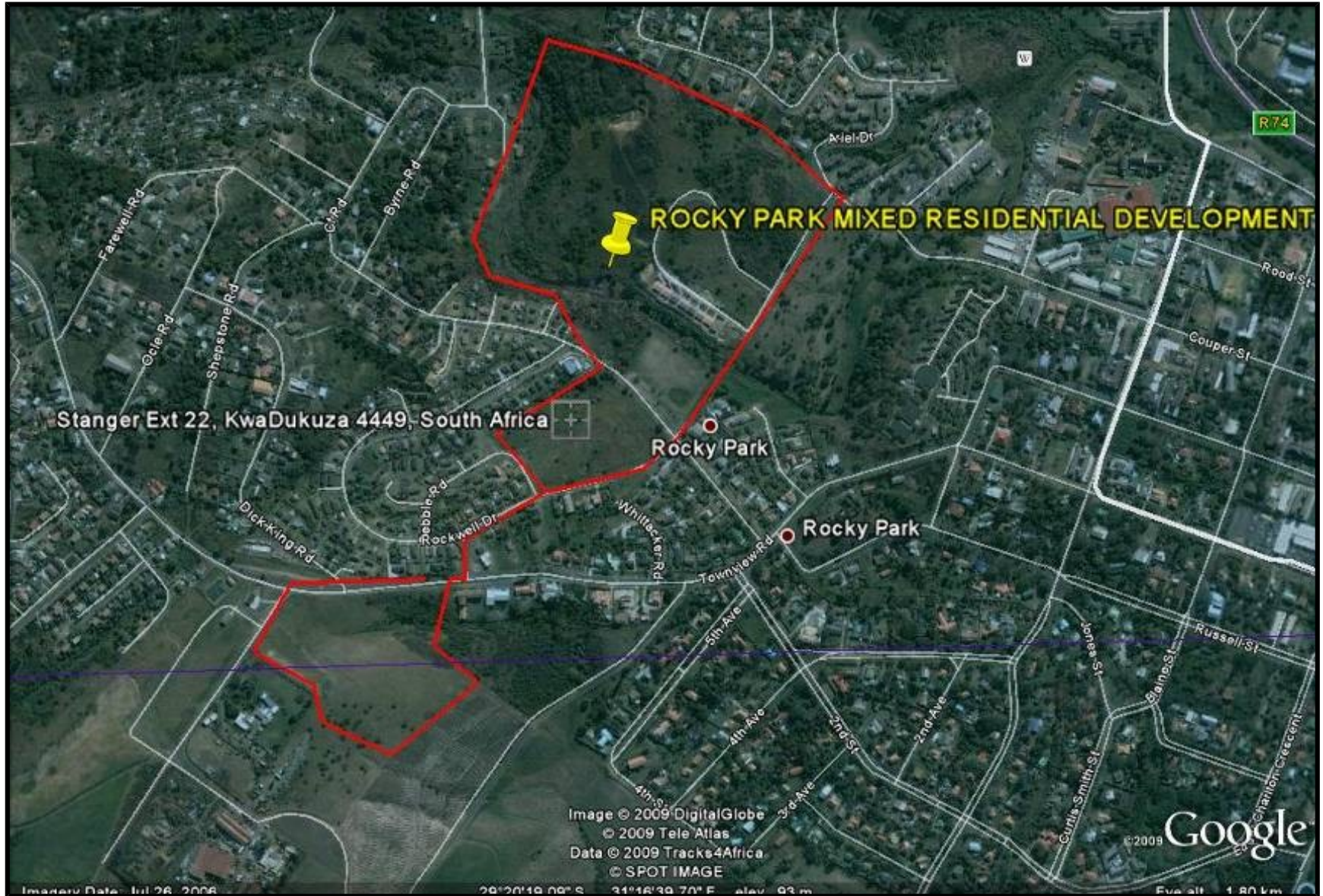




FIG. 2: PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA





## **RESULTS**

The study area occurred on low hills and one slightly sloped area. The upper area was mostly shallow soils with a sandstone substrate. At the base of the hill was a more sandy deposit. The southwestern area was on the top of a hill that has been extensively ploughed in the past. The middle study area is mostly on a steep slope with a small flat area on the top. This area has a concrete base for some structure and an access road. Figure 3 illustrates these sites.

The study area is thus very disturbed or in a low archaeologically sensitive area.

No archaeological or heritage sites were observed in the study area. I have noticed in other surveys, in the general area, that archaeological sites tend not to occur on these poor quality soils. The 1964 topographical maps indicated that this area was unoccupied.

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

No management plan is required since no heritage sites were observed.

## **CONCLUSION**

Umlando cc was contracted by Earth Consulting to undertake a heritage assessment for the 'Rocky Park Mixed Use Development' on available unused land parcels of the Stanger Ext. No 22. Ward 19. The site is approximately 16 ha in extent.

The heritage survey did not locate any heritage sites.

**FIG. 3: LOCATION OF SITES IN THE STUDY AREA**

